

REMARKS

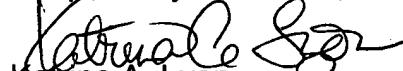
Rejected Claims 38-39 were cancelled. Claim 26 was rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claim, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 27 and 34-37 were also amended to depend from Claim 26. Therefore, Claims 27-37 and 40 are now patentable as they depend from amended Claim 26.

It should be noted that the foregoing changes were made to further prosecution of the patent application. No admission is made that the rejected claims 38-39 are obvious over Ikeda in view of Kroiter.

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of Claims 5-24.

In summary, it is believed that the foregoing amendments have placed the claims in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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